

TRIBUTE TO A.J. NASTASI: PENNSYLVANIA'S ALL-TIME HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCORING LEADER

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who has made an athletic accomplishment that many people thought would probably not be broken. A.J. Nastasi, a student at Northern Bedford High School located in Loysburg, Pennsylvania, broke the Pennsylvania Boys High School basketball Scoring record on Saturday, February 7, 1998, with 3,627 points. I was fortunate enough to be in attendance for this historic game, watching A.J. and his teammates take on my hometown's team from Everett, Pennsylvania. A.J. has demonstrated great poise and maturity throughout this exciting basketball season, a trait no doubt attributed to his family. It should be noted that the previous record holder is a former colleague of mine here in the House of Representatives, former Representative Tom McMillen of Maryland. Tom set the state record in 1970 at Mansfield High School, scoring 3,608 points, and went on to a successful college and professional basketball career before coming to Congress. It was a privilege to be invited to honor A.J. and celebrate this momentous occasion with the many fans, friends and family members in attendance. Next Fall, A.J. will be attending West Virginia University as a scholar-athlete. A.J. has become part of an esteemed group of athletes through his accomplishment. I wish A.J. the best in this future endeavors, and hope that he continues his success on and off the court.

RECOGNIZING THE Y107/ST. JUDE'S TELETHON

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14th, radio station Y107 and the Woodbridge Center in New Jersey will be hosting the first annual Y107/St. Jude Radiothon.

The radiothon which will run for a total of forty two and a half hours over the next two days, seeks to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for the fight against cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Thirty-six years ago an entertainer by the name of Danny Thomas founded the only hospital devoted to solely fighting the plague of cancer on the world's children. That hospital, the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is still today the only hospital devoted to this cause, and is still fighting cancer with a rare, precious vigor and determination.

Treating over 14,000 children and making scientific breakthroughs again and again, St. Jude's had helped to increase the overall survival rate for children stricken with cancer with 20 to 60 percent in its 36 year time span.

Today I would like to personally thank each and every person who has devoted their time,

money, and hearts to St. Jude's children. I would also like to commend all of those who have made these incredible advancements in saving our children from cancer. One cannot praise the hospital staff and volunteers enough for their efforts throughout their years of service. Moreover, I must also extend my great appreciation to those who have donated to St. Jude's over the years. With costs of over \$60,000 for only the first year of treatment, the children and St. Jude's count on our charity and generosity to fund their worthy cause and make treatment possible. Congratulations, best wishes and acclaim to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the children, staff, contributors and people of Central New Jersey that will help Y107 reach its goal this weekend.

RECOGNIZING LAUREN HOUGH FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERISM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren Hough of Agnes Irwin School. Recently, Lauren was named a Distinguished Finalist for the state of Pennsylvania in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This nationwide program highlights the achievements of America's most exemplary young people, like Lauren, who volunteer to make a difference in their communities and throughout the world.

Miss Hough is being recognized for her work with Operation Smile, an organization dedicated to providing medical assistance and surgical procedures to underprivileged children throughout the world. Last year, Lauren traveled with the organization to Kenya, where she assisted doctors by comforting children who are undergoing surgery for facial deformities.

Operation Smile has made a significant impact throughout our nation and in the world. With the help of volunteers like Lauren, Operation Smile has positively influenced over 41,000 children.

Lauren Hough should be proud to have been singled out for recognition out of a national pool of over 11,000 students. I applaud the work of Miss Hough in making a difference and aiding the lives of children throughout the world. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and integrity that is exceptional for a student of her age.

Lauren's work is a model for other students and adults throughout the nation. Volunteer actions by those like Lauren is what made America great. As a representative of the youth of America, Lauren's vision for volunteerism provides me with an enthusiastic outlook for the future. I thank Lauren and encourage her to continue working to make a difference in the lives of others.

1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, while we celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions that African Americans have brought to our diverse country this month, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an individual whose spiritual faith and dedication to inner-city children has been an inspiration to many.

Rev. Walter Murray graduated from Harvard School of Divinity in 1986 and for the past eight years, has been Pastor at Zion Baptist Church in Lynn, Massachusetts. During his tenure at Zion Baptist he founded the "Inroads New England" program and provided transportation to inner-city children who otherwise would not be able to attend program events. Last fall, Rev. Murray was honored for his work with Inroads New England.

The co-founder of the Essex County Community Organization, Rev. Murray also helped create the Jump Start program in the basement of his church, which provided after-school activities for latchkey children. He is a member of the Swampscott, Massachusetts Rotary Club and has assisted in the development of youth leadership weekends. He has been honored with the Massachusetts Ecumenical Council of Churches award for Ecumenism, the First Decade Award from Harvard Alumni Association, and the Children's Defense Fund National Achievement Award.

Frederick Douglass once said, "I cannot allow myself to be insensitive to the wrongs and sufferings of any part of the great family of man." Rev. Murray personifies the words of the great abolitionist and civil rights leader through his selfless dedication and spiritual devotion to the children who are often neglected and forgotten. His work has touched the lives of hundreds of children and adults and he continues to influence more and more individuals every day. In our lifetime, we are fortunate to know at least one person with such philanthropic commitment, and as we commemorate Black History Month, I am honored to call Rev. Murray a constituent, a dear friend, and an individual who truly represents the achievements of African Americans to our society.

SALUTING SAM JOHNSON OF TEXAS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a colleague and a true patriot, Representative SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Today marks the 25th anniversary of Mr. JOHNSON's release from North Vietnam, where he was held as a prisoner of war for nearly seven years in the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

We have all heard stories of the horrific conditions endured by American servicemen who became pawns of the North Vietnamese as